



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region 4
4600 Giant Springs Road
Great Falls MT 59405

March 13, 2020

Dear Interested Party:

An environmental assessment (EA) was posted on February 7, 2020 evaluating the fill source for the restoration project on Hardy Creek. Public comment was accepted through March 8, 2020. The proposed action allows for the use of fill from two potential sources detailed in the EA.

Enclosed is a decision notice document in which Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) explains its rationale for proceeding with the proposed action. No public comments were received during the public comment period.

Please feel free to contact the local management biologist, Jason Mullen, at (406) 454-5855 with any questions you may have. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Gary Bertellotti
Regional Supervisor
FWP Region 4



ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT DECISION NOTICE

Hardy Creek Restoration Fill Source

Proposed Action

The proposed action allows for the use of fill from two potential sources. The two fill sources that may be used include 1) fill from the south end of the Hardy Creek channel gravel pit, and 2) fill that is present next to the Pelican Point Pond #1 on the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks (MFWP) Fishing Access Site. The fill next to the Pelican Point Pond #1 is a hill that consists of topsoil, which was likely formed during the construction of the original gravel pit (now Pelican Point Pond #1). The final selection of the fill source for the project will be dependent upon the conditions of the site when construction is able to begin (e.g., how much water is present, effectiveness of dewatering techniques), cost and effectiveness of the options, and the professional expertise of the design consultant, contractor, and FWP representatives. Approximately 3,300 cubic yards of fill is needed to construct the floodplain and channel and approximately 9,000 cubic yards of fill is available in the form of the hill next to the Pelican Point Pond #1.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

FWP is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess potential impacts of its proposed actions to the human and physical environments. In compliance with FWP's MEPA Public Involvement Policy, an Environmental Assessment was prepared by FWP for the proposed project and released on February 7, 2020 for public comment. The EA was titled *Hardy Creek Restoration Fill Source*. The EA was the subject of a FWP press release and was posted and remains available for viewing on the FWP webpage at <http://fwp.mt.gov/news/publicNotices>. The EA evaluated the potential impacts of the proposed action and the No Action alternative.

Summary of Public Comment and FWP Response

No public comments were received.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, the lack of public comment, and FWP evaluation, it is my decision to proceed with the proposed action, allowing for use of the two proposed fill sources.

I find there to be no significant impacts to the human and physical environments associated with the proposed fill sources. The overall project has undergone extensive review and required permits by the following agencies; the Army Corps of Engineers, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Montana Department of Transportation, Cascade County Floodplain, and BNSF Railroad. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Gary Bertellotti
Regional Supervisor
FWP Region 4